

CLAIM LISTING

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A procurement system for a buyer to purchase a desired item, said system comprising:

a first electronic catalog database stored on a computer-readable storage medium and accessible to said buyer lacking said desired item;

a second electronic catalog database stored on a computer-readable storage medium, wherein each unique catalog item stored within said second catalog is identified with respect to class relationships, attribute relationships, and value relationships;

a master catalog database, being a third electronic catalog database stored on a computer-readable storage medium, said master catalog database not accessible to said buyer including the desired item; and

an item selection procedure, said procedure relying on said relationships to search for the desired item within:

- said second catalog database when ~~it~~ the desired item is not located within said first catalog database, and

- said master electronic catalog database when the desired item is not located within said first catalog database and said second catalog database.

18. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 17, wherein each unique catalog item stored within said first catalog database is identified with respect to said class, attribute, and value relationships.

19. (Currently Amended) A procurement system as recited in claim 17, including:

a special requisition identifying the desired item prepared by said buyer using said class, attribute, and value relationships; ~~and~~

~~a master database not accessible to said buyer including the desired item~~, said special requisition being used by said item selection procedure to search for the desired item in said master database.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 17, wherein a parametric search engine performs said item selection procedure.

22. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 17, wherein said class relationships are hierarchical among classes.

23. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 22, wherein the lowest class in the hierarchy is a leaf class and said attribute relationships is a leaf class to an attribute.

24. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 23, wherein said attributes comprise static, differentiating, and dynamic.

25. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 23, wherein said value relationships is an attribute to a value of the attribute.

26. (Previously Presented) A procurement system as recited in claim 19, wherein said special requisition is forwarded to a supplier who provides the desired item, one of said databases being updated with said desired item according to said class, attribute, and value relationships.

27. - 28. (Cancelled)